

§ 654.25 Prevention of gear conflicts.

(a) No person may knowingly place in the management area any article, including fishing gear, that interferes with fishing or obstructs or damages fishing gear or the fishing vessel of another; or knowingly use fishing gear in such a fashion that it obstructs or damages the fishing gear or fishing vessel of another.

(b) In accordance with the procedures and limitations of the Fishery Management Plan for the Stone Crab Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, the Regional Administrator may modify or establish separation zones for shrimp trawling and the use of fixed gear as may be necessary and appropriate to prevent gear conflicts. Necessary prohibitions or restrictions will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

[60 FR 13919, Mar. 15, 1995, as amended at 67 FR 61993, Oct. 3, 2002]

§ 654.26 Adjustment of management measures.

In accordance with the procedures and limitations of the fishery management plan for the Stone Crab Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, the Regional Administrator may establish or modify the following management measures: Limitations on the number of traps that may be fished by each vessel; construction characteristics of traps; gear and vessel identification requirements; gear that may be used or prohibited in a directed fishery; bycatch levels in non-directed fisheries; seasons; soak/removal periods and requirements for traps; use, possession and handling of stone crabs aboard vessels; and minimum legal sizes.

[60 FR 13919, Mar. 15, 1995, as amended at 67 FR 61993, Oct. 3, 2002]

§ 654.27 Specifically authorized activities.

The Regional Administrator may authorize, for the acquisition of information and data, activities otherwise prohibited by the regulations in this part.

[60 FR 13919, Mar. 15, 1995, as amended at 67 FR 61993, Oct. 3, 2002]

§ 654.28 Tortugas marine reserves.

The following activities are prohibited within the Tortugas marine reserves: Fishing for any species and anchoring by fishing vessels.

(a) *EEZ portion of Tortugas North.* The area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points: From point A at 24°40'00' N. lat., 83°06'00' W. long. to point B at 24°46'00' N. lat., 83°06'00' W. long. to point C at 24°46'00' N. lat., 83°00'00' W. long.; thence along the line denoting the seaward limit of Florida's waters, as shown on the current edition of NOAA chart 11438, to point A at 24°40'00' N. lat., 83°06'00' W. long.

(b) *Tortugas South.* The area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	24°33'00'	83°09'00'
B	24°33'00'	83°05'00'
C	24°18'00'	83°05'00'
D	24°18'00'	83°09'00'
A	24°33'00'	83°09'00'

[67 FR 47469, July 19, 2002]

APPENDIX A TO PART 654—FIGURES

Figure 1—Stone Crab Claw

Figure 2—Southwest Florida Seasonal Trawl Closure

Figure 3—Shrimp/Stone Crab Separation Zones